

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. An object matching system comprising:

a plurality of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags storing corresponding tag data coupled individually to respective objects, wherein selected ones of said RFID tags are programmed with tag data associating said selected ones of said RFID tags with one another;

at least one RFID reader/interrogator configured to interrogate said RFID tags and responsive to said interrogation to read said corresponding tag data; and,

matching logic programmed to determine whether interrogated ones of said RFID tags contain tag data indicating an association between coupled ones of said objects.

2. The object matching system of claim 1, wherein said matching logic is disposed in said RFID reader/interrogator.

3. The object matching system of claim 1, wherein said objects comprise purchased goods in a retail store and respective receipts for the purchase of said goods, wherein said RFID reader/interrogator is disposed in proximity to a conveyor belt carrying said purchased goods.

4. The object matching system of claim 1, wherein said objects comprise assigned seats in a seating area and respective admissions tickets associated with said assigned

seats, wherein said RFID reader/interrogator is disposed in proximity to a threshold leading into said seating area.

5. The object matching system of claim 4, further comprising a pathway of lights disposed between at least one of said seats and said threshold wherein said pathway is configured to illuminate when a corresponding admissions ticket assigned to said at least one of said seats passes in proximity to said RFID reader/interrogator.

6. A method of matching objects, the method comprising the steps of:
interrogating at least two RFID tags coupled to respective objects;
responsive to said interrogation, reading tag data from each of said at least two RFID tags; and,
determining whether said tag data matches.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining step comprises the step of determining whether at least a portion of said tag data matches.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
programming said at least two RFID tags with a baggage claim check number;
and,
for each baggage claim check number, coupling one of said programmed RFID tags to a bag and another of said programmed RFID tags to a claim check.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
programming said at least two RFID tags with a customer identifier; and,
coupling one of said programmed RFID tags to a consumer card held by a customer, and coupling remaining ones of said programmed RFID tags to products which have been purchased by said customer.
10. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
programming said at least two RFID tags with a ticket number; and,
coupling one of said programmed RFID tags to a seat associated with a ticket having said ticket number, and coupling another of said programmed RFID tags to said ticket.
11. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for matching objects, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:
interrogating at least two RFID tags coupled to respective objects;
responsive to said interrogation, reading tag data from each of said at least two RFID tags; and,
determining whether said tag data matches.
12. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said determining step comprises the step of determining whether at least a portion of said tag data matches.